

REMARKS

In the newly submitted sheet of drawings, Figure 5 has been corrected by adding a lead line for the reference numeral 16. No other change was introduced.

Claims 1-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 12 with specific reference to the use of the term "independently" with respect to movement of the pull strip. This has been dealt with in various ways in independent claims 1, 4 and 8 as follows:

In claim 1, "independently of" has been changed to "relative to", in subparagraph (c). In subparagraph (e), it is stated that the pusher sled can be advanced "in a forward direction" by the pull strip. Subparagraph (e) has been further amended to recite that the pull strip has "an element" for engaging the pusher sled (not necessarily a vertically upwardly extending element). Subparagraph (j) of claim 1, recites that the pusher sled remains fixed in a position to which it is drawn by the pull strip when the pull strip subsequently is moved in a rearward direction.

In claim 4, a new subparagraph (f) has been added, reciting that the pull strip has an element engageable with the pusher sled to move it forwardly while accommodating movement of the pull strip in a rearward direction without corresponding rearward movement of the pusher sled.

Claim 8 is directed to a modification in which the pull strip has first and second elements for engaging front and back portions of the pusher sled (so that the sled and pull strip are locked together for forward and rearward movements). Claim 8 further calls for the pusher sled to have a snap-together assembly with the base member, with portions of the sled positioned between the sled-engaging elements of the pull strip.

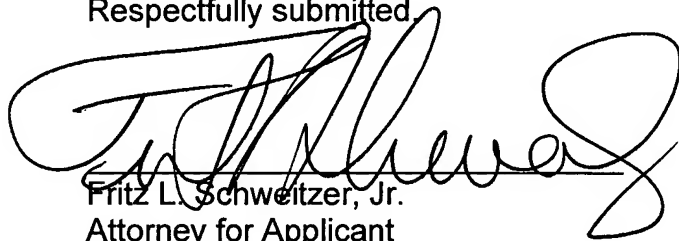
Each of claims 1, 4 and 8 (and of course all of their dependent claims), calls for the base to have elements adjacent the front end thereof cooperating with limited portions of the pull strip for vertical confinement of the pull strip. The claims further call for the sled itself to provide vertical confinement of the pull strip in areas rearwardly of the confining elements.

Claim 10, rejected on prior art (Dumontet 6,527,127) has been amended by incorporating therein the substance of claim 11. As thus amended, claim 10 calls for the pull strip member to be guided for movement separate from the pusher sled, with an engagement element enabling the pusher sled to be advanced forwardly by the pull strip while allowing the pull strip to move rearwardly separately from the pusher sled. The claim further calls for a return spring connected to the pull strip whereby the pull strip is returned rearwardly to a retracted position when released.

In the Dumontet reference, a spring return is provided for, but both the pusher sled and the pull strip are returned together whereas in the applicant's claimed structure, the pull strip alone is retracted by the spring and the pusher sled remains in whatever position it was advanced to by forward movement of the pull strip.

As the claims are now presented, it is believed that they are all allowable, both as to form and substance, and an early action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted



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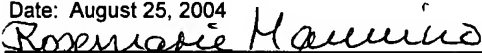
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Date: August 25, 2004


Rosemarie Mannino

Amendments to the Drawings

Please substitute the attached sheet of drawings, containing Figs. 4 and 5, for the corresponding sheet of drawings submitted October 17, 2003.